



“A valuable, ethical and enduring partnership with your local Community”



MOANBAUN
SPORTS DEVELOPMENT



What is “Planting for our Future”?

- It is a creative, inclusive, collaborative, environmental, community initiative to plant trees, hedges and wildflower meadows around the border of our park.
- **Goals of “Planting for our Future”** are to:
 - Develop and improve our new grounds
 - Support biodiversity
 - Enhance Community Collaboration
 - Raise awareness of the importance of native trees to our environment
 - Support educational programmes in our local schools
 - Shape a beautiful green landscape to enjoy forever
 - Help to reduce greenhouse gases, fight climate change and improve air quality
 - Increase forest cover
 - Create a natural storm weather shelter for the park
 - Improve natural drainage in the park
 - Increase the value of the property



Native Irish Trees

Around 12,000 years ago, Ireland was covered in snow and ice. This was known as the Ice Age. As the weather became warmer, the snow melted and trees began to grow. The seeds of trees such as hazel and oak were brought here by birds and animals, across the landbridge Britain and the rest of Europe. The seeds of other trees, such as willow and birch, are so light that they were blown here by the wind.

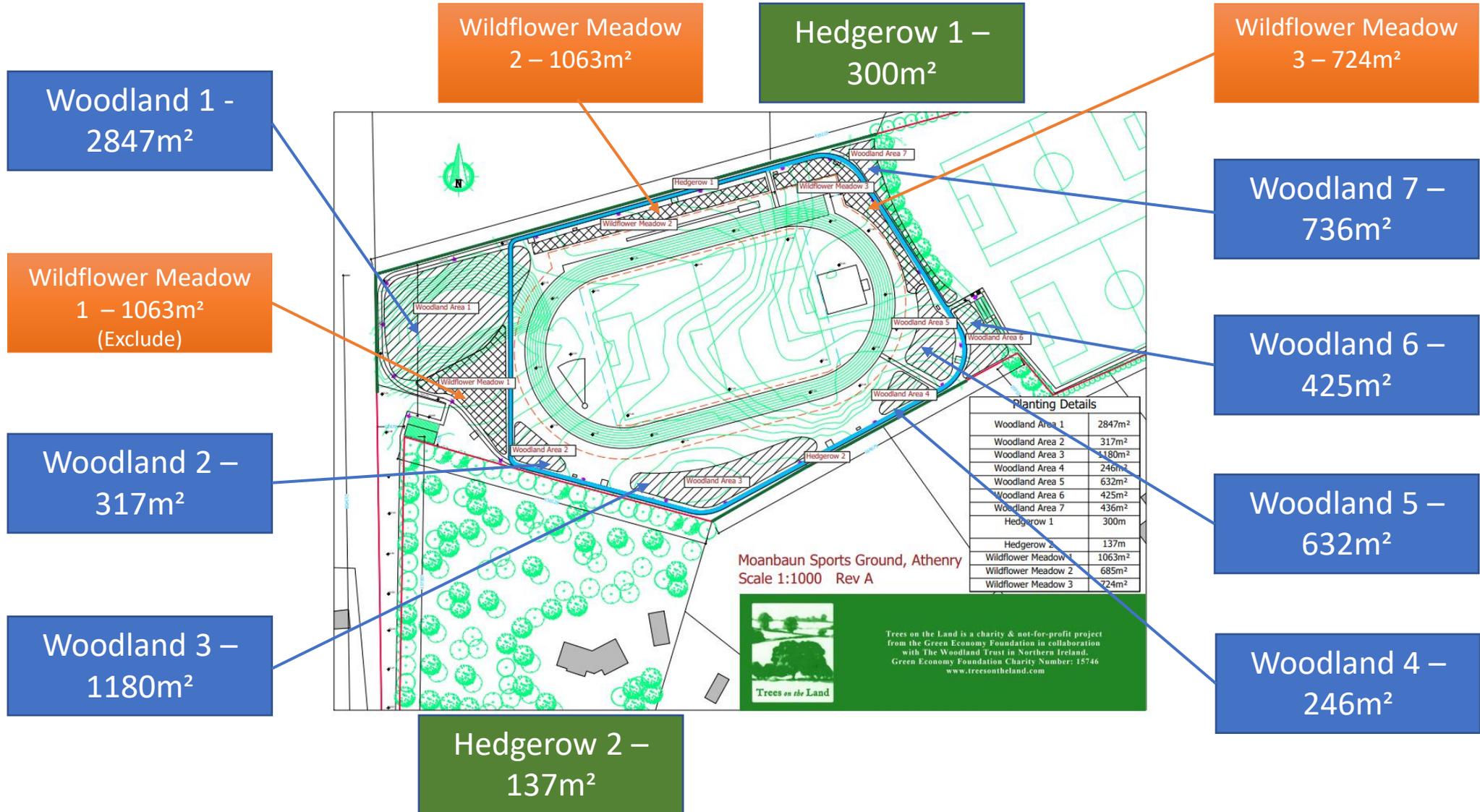
Eventually, the sea rose, the landbridge was flooded and Ireland became an island. Our native trees are the trees that reached here to were transported from the rest of Europe. Our most common native trees include oak, ash, hazel, birch, Scots pine, hawthorn and willow. Ever people brought other trees, such as beech, sycamore, horse chestnut, spruce, larch and fir to Ireland.





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Map outlining our Plan



Who will Benefit?

- Primary Groups:
 - **Athenry Football Club.** Juvenile and adults circa 500 members
 - **Athenry Senior Athletics Club.** Circa 220 members
 - **Athenry Junior Athletics Club.** Circa 80 members
 - **National & International** competing teams and athletes
- Secondary Groups:
 - School groups
 - Walking groups
 - Elderly and Disabled people
 - Community of Athenry
 - Visitors to the park



Irish Native Trees

- Around 12,000 years ago, Ireland was covered in snow and ice. This was known as the Ice Age. As the weather became warmer, the snow and ice melted and trees began to grow. The seeds of trees such as hazel and oak were brought here by birds and animals, across the land bridges from Britain and the rest of Europe. The seeds of other trees, such as willow and birch, are so light that they were blown here by the wind.
- Eventually, the seas rose, the land bridges were flooded and Ireland became an island. Our native trees are the trees that reached here before we were separated from the rest of Europe. Our most common native trees include oak, ash, hazel, birch, Scots pine, rowan and willow. Eventually, people brought other trees, such as beech, sycamore, horse chestnut, spruce, larch and fir to Ireland.



See Appendix 1 – Plan is to try and plant 21 different Native Trees

Irish Wildflower Meadows

Irish wildflower expert Sandro Cafolla in the wildflower meadow in Cabinteely Park, Co Dublin. Photograph: Nick Bradshaw



“The reawakening of people’s interest in planting for wildlife and the growing appreciation of wildflower meadows is one positive response to increased awareness of biodiversity loss. You can now see a variety of wildflowers on road margins, in sections of public parks, town gardens, golf courses and GAA pitches and even in private gardens”.

Irish Times Saturday, August 31, 2019

See Appendix 2 – More information on Irish Wildflower Meadows



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Planting
for
our
Future



Make it Happen Team

- Athenry Football Club
- Athenry Senior & Junior Athletics Clubs
- Moanbaun Sports Development Ltd
- Green Pine Consultants
- Athenry Tidy Towns
- Trees for the Land
- Athenry Community

Planting
for
our
Future



“The best time to plant a tree is twenty years ago.

The second best time is now.” *Old Chinese Proverb*



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Proud of where we have come from...



Proud of where we are going to.

Next Steps...



- Finalise best mix of trees and planting arrangement. Green Pine Consultants will give us their recommendation based on our requirements and feedback. **Action:** All
- Tidy Towns will work with Green Pine Consulting to arrange the stock of trees (Early December). **Action:** Athenry Tidy Towns
- Planting can take place between December 2020 – March 2021. **Action** All
- Agree a plan and a team for each of the woodlands, wildflower meadows and hedgerows sections, respecting the Covid guidelines. *For example woodland -1 could be done by an adult group and woodlands 4 & 5 could be done by younger children supervised by their parents etc.* Having all the members from our respective clubs involved in the “Planting for our Future” project should give everyone responsibility, involvement, a sense of ownership and engagement. All the COVID-19 protocols will be adhered to. **Action:** All clubs



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Irish Native Trees

ALDER

Fearnóg

Alnus glutinosa



One of Ireland's most traditional and widely distributed trees, alders may be found in damp areas, beside freshwater loughs and along river banks, where their strong fibrous roots may help to keep the bank in place

ASH

Fuinseog

Fraxinus excelsior

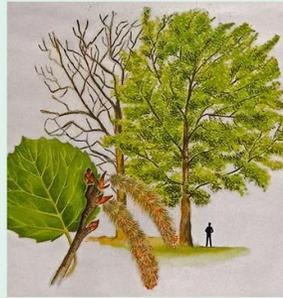


Ash is the commonest tree in Irish hedgerows, and is also a traditional woodland species. It will grow in a range of soils, not acid, and prefers well-drained sites

ASPEN

Crann creathach

Populus tremula



The one definitely native poplar is aspen (all other poplars may be assumed to be introduced, although the black poplar is still being argued about). Aspen will grow into a full sized tree. The leaves make a distinctive sound as they rattle gently in the wind, and they have a sweet smell in the spring

BIRCH (Downy)

Beith chlúmhach

Betula pubescens



There are two types of birch in Ireland, downy and silver. The most usual is the downy birch, which like silver birch is a delicate tree with fine branches and small leaves. The springtime flowers are catkins which stay on the tree and contain the mature seed by autumn. Birch will grow in poor soils, but likes a sunny position.

BIRCH (Silver)

Beith gheal

Betula pendula



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BLACKTHORN

Draighean

Prunus spinosa



Spiny shrub of roadside and hedgerow, blackthorn forms dense scrub cover where it is left untrimmed and ungrazed. It bears dense clusters of small white flowers, which contrast with the dark bark of its twigs, very early in the year. Blackthorn hedges can appear to be covered in white.

CHERRY (Bird)

Donnroisc

Prunus padus



This species is most frequently found in the northwest, for example around Churchill and Lough Gartan, Co. Donegal. It is most easily spotted in the spring, around May, when the flowers are out. The creamy-white flowers are borne in rows along flower stalks about 10cm. long, and are quite obvious above the green foliage.

Irish Native Trees

CHERRY (Wild)

Gean – crann silíní fiáin
Prunus avium



One of our most attractive trees, with its white or very pale pink flowers in spring, followed by hanging cherries. The bark is also attractive, and the leaves provide autumn colour. Wild cherry is very common in St. Johns Wood, Co. Roscommon. Cherry is often found in old field hedgerows where it may have been planted by man, but is also found in mixed deciduous woodland

CRAB APPLE

Crann fia-úll
Malus sylvestris



Like the wild cherry, crab apple has been deliberately grown around old farmsteads (and the fruit used for crab apple jelly) but is also a truly native species found in old woodland. Crab apple is found in hedgerows throughout the country. Unlike modern hybrid apples, crab apples grow true from the apple pips.

HAWTHORN

Sceach gheal
Crataegus monogyna



Hawthorn or white thorn was planted in hedges throughout our countryside. Its sweet smelling 'May' blossom is a feature in that month, and in autumn and winter the deep red haws colour the bare twigs. They are among the berries most favoured by birds. Only untrimmed hawthorn can flower and fruit freely, but hedges have to be cut to keep them stock proof.

HAZEL

Coll
Corylus avellana



A native species with many uses and an ancient history. Hazel nuts are one of the foods associated with the very earliest human settlements in Ireland of Mesolithic man, who also used hazel as the strong flexible timber for his huts. Hazel bushes may be coppiced i.e. cut right back to a stump, and will re-grow.

HOLLY

Crann cuileann
Ilex aquifolium



The evergreen holly is a native species which forms the shrub layer in some of our oldest woods. You may look for it in woodland, or in the narrow gullies of the Sperrins or Donegal uplands, where holly and rowan can survive the harsh upland conditions. It is another visually attractive small tree very suitable for gardens as a specimen tree or as a hedge, slow growing and very dense.

JUNIPER

Aiteal
Juniperus communis



An unusual shrub found in rocky areas, especially on the Burren and in West Donegal, and often at woodland edges. One of our few native evergreens, juniper is generally found on limestone. It will thrive in other soils and could be introduced to areas outside its natural distribution, however, this may not be considered desirable.

OAK (Pendunculate)

Dair ghallda
Quercus robur



Once widespread throughout Ireland, centuries of harvesting, with few trees being replaced, means that truly native oak can be hard to find, though there are small woods in most counties. Very often, semi-natural oak woodlands contain a proportion of birch and ash, with hazel, holly and rowan scattered throughout the understorey.

Irish Native Trees

OAK (Sessile)

Diar ghaelach

Quercus petraea



Once widespread throughout Ireland, centuries of harvesting, with few trees being replaced, means that truly native oak can be hard to find, though there are small woods in most counties. Very often, semi-natural oak woodlands contain a proportion of birch and ash, with hazel, holly and rowan scattered throughout the understorey.

ROWAN/MOUNTAIN ASH

Caorthann

Sorbus aucuparia

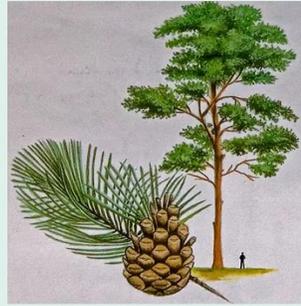


Rowan adds colour to woodland throughout Ireland, especially in the hills where it will grow at a high altitude even on rocky ground: its other common name is mountain ash. The creamy flowers ripen into scarlet berries which colour early in the season and provide food for thrushes through the winter.

SCOTS PINE

Péine albanach

Pinus sylvestris



Originally a native tree. Pollen found in soil samples from bogs indicates that Scots pine was widespread in Ireland thousands of years ago. Human impact and the gradual change to a warmer, wetter climate led to its decline, and it may even have died out completely. Pine stumps have been found in bogs, standing where they grew, 7,000 years ago, before the formation of the peat.

WHITEBEAM

Fionncholl

Sorbus spp.



These are small trees, quite unusual in the wild, and many imported specimens have been planted in towns and parks, along roads etc. If you want the truly native tree you may have to search – it is most common in the south of the country. Whitebeam leaves have a pale under surface, which explains its name, while the cream flowers ripen to red berries. The hard pale wood was traditionally used for small furniture such as the legs of stools.

WILLOW

Saileach

Salix spp.



There are several varieties of willow native to Ireland. All grow in damp soil, have catkins or ‘pussy willows’ that produce seeds, but are most easily grown from cuttings, which root very readily. The most widespread willow species are the goat willow, the rusty or grey willow (both known as ‘sallies’), and the eared willow..

WYCH ELM

Leamhán sléibhe

Ulmus glabra

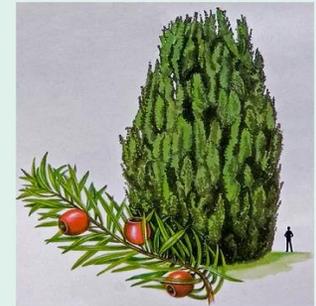


The wych elm is native, but many varieties of wych elm and smooth leaved elm have been introduced and planted in Ireland in the past, mostly for timber. Wych elm is chiefly found in mountain glens in the northwest of the country. English elm was mainly planted in demesnes. In recent years many of these trees have died as a result of Dutch elm disease.

YEW

Lúr

Taxus baccata



The yew is native and may be found in old woods although it is often seen in the artificial surroundings of estates or churchyards. An evergreen conifer (although an unusual one), yew is a dramatic tree with its dark foliage and red berries encasing a single seed. Reenadina wood on the Muckross Peninsula, Co. Kerry is Ireland’s only native yew wood.



Irish Wildflower Meadows

- The mix of wildflowers vary from season to season and site to site, depending on species, weather, soil, shade and cutting regime.
- One of the keys to growing a wildflower meadow is to reduce the fertility of the soil as generally speaking the poorer the soil, the easier it is for wildflowers to grow. Clearing the ground of perennial weeds is another important task.
- It can take several years for some wildflowers to germinate and grow. And, it takes patience and effort to cut back docks, thistles and nettles so that wild grasses can grow in their place to allow the wildflowers to thrive.
- Most wildflower seed bags have 15-25 species, a mix of annuals and perennials including poppies, cornflowers, cowslips, clover and oxeye daisies. A level teaspoon of seeds is required for each square metre
- Cafolla's latest project is to enable schools and parks to grow and collect the seeds of native wildflowers as part of Ireland's effort for the forthcoming UN Decade of Ecosystem Restoration. Watch this space

Irish Wildflower Meadows



- **Pathways, verges, & spring meadows** can be kept short for plants such as Red Clover, Trefoil, Cowslip and Selfheal.
High summer flowering areas are allowed to grow and flower until late July when Ox-eye Daisy, Campion, Rattle, Sorrel, Plantain and Trefoil will all have finished flowering.
Late summer or tall flowering meadows are usually placed at the back of any wildflower scheme and are cut last after mid September. Yarrow, Devil's Bit, Marjoram, Bedstraw, Loosestrife and Meadowsweet respond well to late cutting.
- The general rule is if you like a particular mixture of species let it go to seed but cut it soon after. If you don't like a particular species, the fairies forbid, remove it -cut it in full flower. Do not let it set seed.
- The cutting dates provided are used as guidelines and cutting should depend on when the flowering season is finished or when specific heights are reached.



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